



Care and Feeding of Your Douglas Kent Jute Rope

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Care and feeding of your Douglas Kent jute rope

Your Douglas Kent rope is a high performance rope. Like a sports car or other high-performance product, it needs care and maintenance to keep it in peak condition.

These care instructions will help you maximize the life and utility of your Douglas Kent jute rope. They're particularly important if you live in a high-humidity environment.

If you live in a part of the world where relative humidity exceeds 60%, see "Prevention: Storing rope (especially in high humidity environments)" on page 8.



Unpacking your newly shipped rope

Your Douglas Kent rope is shipped in a vacuum-sealed bag that protects it from water, air, and other contaminants (including snow, sleet, wind, dirt, mail carriers, rain, and most dinosaurs.).

Prior to processing or sealing, we store your rope in a low-humidity environment.

To ensure your rope arrives in pristine shape, all Douglas Kent Rope jute is thoroughly dried, placed in an airtight bag with activated carbon and silica gel desiccant, then vacuum sealed. Not only is the rope protected from rain damage during shipping, but also damage from humid environments.

Thus, when you first receive your rope, it will be



Activated carbon packs absorb odors...

...silica gel desiccant adsorbs moisture



quite dry. Over the next few days, it will absorb water (up to several grams per rope per day) until it reaches ambient humidity.

To let your new rope acclimatize:

1. Remove your Douglas Kent rope from its vacuum-sealed bag.
2. Put the activated carbon and silica gel desiccant packs in a small, separate, airtight container for later use. See “Prevention: Storing rope (especially in high humidity environments)” on page 8.

Don't eat the packs.

3. Open each bundle so air can reach all parts of the rope.
4. Leave your rope out for 2 days in a well-ventilated area.

*Only use a climate-controlled room. High humidity can cause dry rot.
See “Prevention: Storing rope (especially in high humidity environ-*

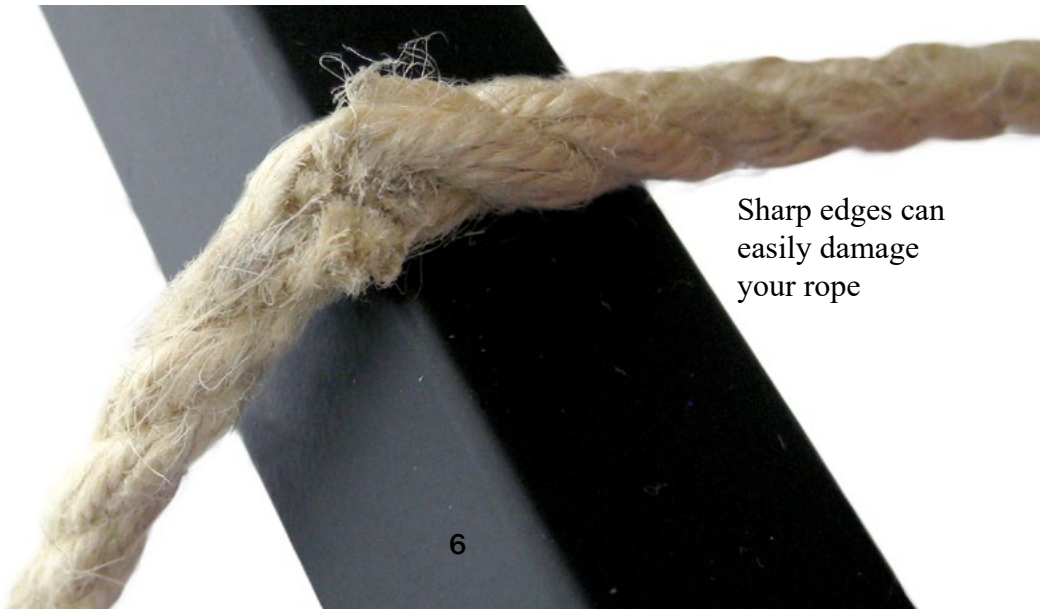


Prevention: Physical damage

As you use your Douglas Kent rope, it will gradually soften. Jute rope is made of natural fibre so, over time, use will cause the fibres to wear and shorten. This wear is natural.

To keep your rope from aging prematurely:

1. Avoid folding your rope across sharp edges (such as bed frames)
2. Keep your rope away from jagged corners that could catch individual rope strands.
3. Keep your rope dry.
4. Follow the use and maintenance instructions in this booklet.



Sharp edges can easily damage your rope

Prevention: High strands

The vast majority of our customers use their Douglas Kent Rope without ever encountering high strands.

However, a small proportion report frequent high strands. In fact, they often report high strands on *every* rope they own. Statistically, the odds against most customers having no problems, yet others having problems on every rope are astronomical unlikely – in other words, the problem isn't with the rope, but how it's used.

If you take a new, perfectly good rope, grip it really tightly, and then drag your hand along its length, you can end up with high strands.

The reason this occurs is that your hands can't grip three-stranded rope evenly – you're mostly squeezing with thumb and index (even if it doesn't feel that way). Thus, you're pulling strands unevenly down the length of the rope.

This isn't a defect – *all* the bondage-grade ropes we tested from *multiple* sources were susceptible. Our standard jute is quite resistant to high-stranding, but you may not feel pain from dragging hard because Douglas Kent Rope is typically well singed and well oiled.

To prevent from creating high strands:

- Draw the rope with a loose grip *only*.



If you take any three-strand rope...



...squeeze it between your thumb and index, then pull hard...



...you will create high strands.

So use a loose grip only!

Prevention: Storing rope (especially in high humidity environments)

Jute is the most hygroscopic of the natural fibres. It can absorb up to 34% of its mass in water, without feeling wet. Jute also has a very high cellulose content, which, when combined with high water absorption, makes jute unusually vulnerable to dry rot.

Dry rot is caused by fungi that consume the jute for food. Dry rot is a bit of a misnomer because it actually requires moisture to occur. However, once rot takes hold, very little moisture is required to sustain the process.

Because the entire life cycle of the fungi centres around jute (and other, less delicious fibres), virtually all jute contains the spores. With sufficient moisture, the spores grow hyphae (fine white strands), then eventually release new spores into the air.

Due to jute's fibrous nature, surface treatment is impractical. Even with complete submersion in an anti-fungal fluid, spores could remain intact within the rope. Further, anti-fungals add harmful chemicals to your rope. Thus, the only alternative is prevention.

To prevent dry rot from taking hold, keep it dry and store it in a cool, dry place, away from sunlight. After use, ensure your rope is completely dry, especially if the climate is humid.

Drying rope before storage

If your rope gets wet, dry it immediately. Depending on the climate and degree of water absorption, air drying may be insufficient.

To dry your rope after exposure to water or humidity:

1. Wipe excess water off your rope.
Use a terry cloth towel or other highly absorbent material. To reduce lint and jute fiber transfer, press the cloth against the rope rather than dragging along its length.
2. If the rope absorbed significant amounts of water or if you live in a humid environment, microwave your rope to dry it fully. See “Cleaning & deodorizing 1: Microwaving rope” on page 16.
3. Once you're certain the rope is completely dry (both on the surface and within), you may store it.

Storing rope

If the relative humidity in your house ever exceeds 60%, you must protect your rope. Dry rot begins at 65% RH.

Store your rope below 65% relative humidity at all times. Once germination takes place, dry rot can proceed in as little as 20% humidity.

Whether or not you live in a humid environment, proper storage can protect your rope from unanticipated environmental risks as well as humidity.

To protect your rope from environmental humidity and prevent spore germination:

1. Ensure your rope is thoroughly dry. See “Drying rope before storage” on page 8.
2. Seal your rope and the silica gel desiccant packages in an air-tight, water-tight bag.
Optionally, include the activated carbon packs.
3. Store the bag in a cool, dark place.
4. Periodically regenerate the silica gel beads. See “Prevention: Reactivating your silica gel desiccant” on page 10.



In humid climates, store your rope in airtight bags with silica gel desiccant

Prevention: Reactivating your silica gel desiccant

To protect it from moisture, your Douglas Kent Rope is shipped with silica gel desiccant beads.

Silica gel is a clear, odourless form of silica dioxide. As a gel, it's relatively hard and typically manufactured into small beads.

Silica gel is highly hygroscopic, making it an excellent desiccant.

Silica gel's desiccant nature works not by absorption (drawing water into it), but by adsorption (trapping water on the surface). Its surface is covered with pores with a diameter of 2.4 nm, making it ideal for capturing water. A single gram of silica gel has an effective surface area of 800 m².



Silica gel is generally used to minimize humidity for damage-prone products, but can also be used to regulate humidity, such as in museum displays.

Over time, silica gel will adsorb or release water to equalize with the ambient relative humidity. However, for our purposes, we want the silica gel to be completely free of water so that it may readily adsorb *any* ambient humidity.

Silica gel that has adsorbed significant water may change color or crack.

To maintain silica gel's ability to adsorb water, you must reactivate it periodically. How frequently depends on the amount of humidity and your own inclination to keep it charged.

To reactivate your silica gel:

1. Remove the silica gel beads from the plastic pouch(es).
2. Place the silica gel beads on a piece of cardboard.

You mustn't expose the plastic pouches to heat or they will melt/burn. Don't allow the beads to contact any metal surfaces, such as a tray supporting the cardboard.

3. Heat the silica gel beads at 150°C for 2 hours.

The beads must be heated to at least 120°C (248°F) to release their water. The beads are susceptible to damage beyond 148°C (300°F). Fine paper spontaneously combusts at 232°C (451°F). For efficiency and conservation, try to heat the beads during the

course of regular cooking.

4. Remove the beads from the oven and allow them to cool briefly.

5. Place the beads in a porous pouch.

You may use the toe of a nylon stocking, several cotton balls taped loosely together, a plastic perforated produce bag, a paper envelope perforated with dozens of pinholes, or any container that allows free airflow.

6. Place your rope and beads together in an airtight, sealed bag or container.

Each packet of silica desiccant is rated for protecting up to 1 kg of material (about six 8 m ropes). Douglas Kent Rope always provides enough desiccant to exceed that requirement.

If you wish to add protection or allow long delays between reactivating your desiccant, you may find additional silica gel desiccant in the packaging for pills and electronic components, as the main ingredient in silica gel-based cat litter, and at mail-packaging supply stores.

When saturated, silica
beads change color



Prevention: Dry skin

Jute's hygroscopic nature means it will readily draw moisture from the atmosphere and adjacent surfaces, including from skin.

During bondage, your rope bottom has skin contact with the rope across their entire body. However, the body parts that touch the rope the most, by far, are your hands as the rigger.

Minor dryness may cause itching, redness, roughness, or fine cracks. If you tie prolifically, or for several days in a row, rope can dry your skin so severely that you may develop painful, bleeding hangnails. Even an hour of rope play may dry your hands noticeably.

Oil on rope helps lubricate the jute fibers, but more importantly, oil reduces the amount of moisture the rope adsorbs from your skin.

Skin cream won't damage rope, provided you use skin creams that don't spoil.

To prevent skin dryness from rope use:

1. Apply scent-free skin cream on your hands before and after using rope.
Avoid skin creams that can spoil or become rancid, such as coconut oil. Consider keeping scent-free skin cream in your rope bag.
2. Regularly lubricate your rope with oil.
See "Maintenance: Oiling" on page 14.



Maintenance: Fuzz control

Jute rope naturally has loose strands along its length. Before ropes leave the Douglas Kent Rope facility, the strands are carefully singed off (unless you ordered unsinged rope). However, singeing is always a delicate balance between removing strands and scorching the rope.

As your rope wears (and even during shipping), more loose strands will appear. At some point, you may wish to remove them.

To remove strands on and within the rope:

1. Tumble loose rope in a clothes drier for five minutes on low heat.
Expect significant lint accumulation; clean the lint trap before and after each set of ropes.
2. Pass the rope through a natural gas flame.
Keep the rope near the gas nozzle, where the flame is blue, rather than the hotter orange flame higher up. Avoid flames produced by candles, wood, and other non-gas sources – the combustion temperature is too high and will scorch your rope.
3. Optionally, oil your rope. See “Maintenance: Oiling” on page 14.

When defuzzing, pull your rope through the coolest part of the natural gas flame, denoted by the dotted line



Maintenance: Oiling

Oiling keeps your rope flexible, but also protects your skin from dryness.

Over time, the oil treatment on your rope may wear off.

To reapply the treatment to your rope:

1. Use the same treatment that was originally applied to your rope.

If you're uncertain, use mineral oil.

2. Dab 0.5 to 2.0 mL of mineral oil on a clean, lint-free cloth.

Don't pour oil directly on the rope or soak the cloth; both will result in too much oil at first, then too little later.

Our initial treatment ranges between 0.5 mL/m and 2 mL/m;

subsequent treatments may require less to restore the original feel.

3. Wipe the cloth along a 1 m length of rope.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until the entire rope is treated.

At Douglas Kent Rope, we meter our treatment exactly using small syringes or digital scales, but we're kinda obsessive. It's okay if you decide to be less precise.



Cleaning & deodorizing: Overview

Jute rope is porous and can't be cleaned easily, so your best strategy is to avoid getting it dirty in the first place. Where possible, avoid contact with body fluids.

To reduce rope contamination:

- Shower before playing with rope.

To limit jute rope contact with the vagina/anus/etc:

- Tie over clothing or underwear.
- Separate rope from skin with a hand towel.
- Use dedicated synthetic rope for crotch ties.

On the following pages are methods to clean, deodorize, and disinfect your rope. The methods are ordered in descending order of greatest benefit (and least effort/damage).



Cleaning & deodorizing 1: Microwaving rope

Jute has an autoignition temperature of only 107°C, so placing jute in an oven can be dangerous, even at very low settings. Thus, treating jute with heat is more safely done with a microwave.

Microwaves target moisture. Thus, it can better target “problem areas” without overheating the actual jute fiber. Microwaving jute has the following effects:

- Softens rope by drying cells and bursting some jute cells
- Removes excess water and humidity
- Disinfects bacteria by boiling the water in the bacteria and bursting cell walls
- Deodorizes by boiling away the aromatic hydrocarbons often responsible for odors

Jute rope will come out of the microwave noticeably softer. It will stiffen somewhat as it adsorbs water from the atmosphere.

Microwaving doesn't directly affect viruses, but secondary heat may deactivate them.



To microwave jute:

1. Place 1 length of rope (7-8 m long) coiled evenly around the outer perimeter of a dinner plate. Ensure the ends are part of the coil.
2. Fill an average-sized mug 3/4 full with cool water. Use cool water for each new rope.
3. Place the mug in the center of the dinner plate.
4. Place the plate, mug, and rope in a microwave.
5. Microwave at about 800 W (high or medium-high, depending on your model) for 4 minutes.
6. If you wish to microwave the same rope a second time, leave it in open air at 50% relative humidity for 24 hours before repeating steps 1-5.

If the rope was stored at 50% relative humidity at 22-35°C, it will lose about 6 g of water. The loss of water will soften the rope significantly. Over the next several hours, the jute will adsorb water from the air. The rope will regain much of its stiffness, but not all.



Cleaning & deodorizing 2: Freezing

Some viruses and bacteria are susceptible to freezing. For example, the HIV virus can't survive freezing in an oxygenated environment. Some viruses and many bacteria are only inactivated while frozen.

A typical freezer has a temperature of about -20 °C, which is akin to a winter day in colder parts of the world. Thus, a conventional freezer mimics the freezing viruses experience in nature.

Not surprisingly, some viruses have evolved to survive being frozen, though they might experience a mortality rate of 90%. However, the mortality rate occurs from the freeze-thaw cycle, not from the duration of being frozen.

Thus, the best strategy to kill viruses is to freeze them many times, rather than one long time.

Presuming a 90% mortality rate per freeze-thaw cycle, two cycles kills 99% of viruses; three cycles, 99.9%; five cycles, 99.999%.

To freeze your rope:

1. Microwave your rope to remove any excess water. See “Cleaning & deodorizing 1: Microwaving rope” on page 16.
2. Place your rope in an airtight bag. Squeeze out some, but not all the air.
The airtight bag keeps the rope clean and prevents the rope from absorbing “fridge odors”.
Air has a low thermal capacity, making it act as an effective insulator.
The contents of bags with less air will tend to freeze faster.
3. Place your rope in the freezer.
4. Remove the rope after it is fully frozen.
5. Allow the rope to fully thaw.
6. For thorough virus elimination, repeat the freeze-thaw cycle a total of three or four more times.



Cleaning & deodorizing 3: UV light

The Sun has long been recognized as a natural disinfectant that kills bacteria and denatures viruses.

UV light has a wavelength of 10 nm to 400 nm. Wavelengths between 260 nm and 270 nm are particularly damaging to the molecular bonds of microorganism's DNA.

The Sun emits UV-C light that destroys a microorganism's nucleic cells and disrupts its DNA. However, the Earth's natural ozone layer filters UV-C before it reaches the ground. Thus, sterilization lamps are better sources of UV-C than the Sun.

Ordinary window glass blocks 90% of UV light below 300 nm, but admits 90% above 350 nm. Thus, if sunlight passes through window glass, the sterilization effect is largely negated.

UV sterilization requires direct line-of-sight exposure to be effective. Rope's cylindrical, opaque, three-stranded form will tend to prevent application of UV light to the full surface of the rope. Further, microorganisms buried in the rope will be unaffected.

Since UV light application is highly inconsistent, and since the procedure's effectiveness is impossible to gauge, use UV light as an additional disinfecting procedure, rather than the sole method you depend on.

UV disinfecting won't harm your rope. However, rain or bugs could seriously damage rope. To ensure unintended damage by environmental factors, supervise your rope closely.

To disinfect your rope with UV light:

1. Lay your rope on a clean surface.
2. Expose the rope to direct sunlight.

If the sunlight passes through window glass, the sterilization effect is only 10% of direct sunlight.

3. Regularly rotate the rope so that light directly strikes all sides.



Cleaning & deodorizing 4: Baking soda

Jute is a very porous natural fiber. As such, it readily absorbs odors.

You can deodorize rope easily by microwaving, freezing, applying UV light, and defuzzing it. See the previous sections for details.

However, if you wish to deodorize your rope more thoroughly, use baking soda.

For the culinarily challenged, baking *soda* is not the same as baking *powder*.

Baking soda is sodium hydrogen carbonate (NaHCO_3), which is a salt.

Baking powder is baking soda plus additives, including a weak acid and cornstarch. Cornstarch won't make your rope better, but probably will make a mess of it.

Use baking *soda*. Don't use baking *powder*.

For any given amount of baking soda, our testing has shown that several treatments with smaller amounts are more effective than a single treatment with a larger amount. We recommend 1-4 treatments.

To deodorize your rope with baking soda:

1. Place your uncoiled rope in a ziplock bag.

The bag should be large enough that the rope isn't squished and can move around freely.

2. For a single treatment on one rope, measure about 90 g of baking soda.

Decide how many treatments you wish to use and ration the baking soda accordingly. Two treatments of 45 g are more effective; three of



30 g, more effective still.

3. Sprinkle the baking powder into the bag, directly onto the rope.

Ensure you cover as much of the rope as possible.

4. Seal the ziplock bag.

Leave enough air in the bag that the baking soda has room to move around.

5. Shake the rope and bag vigorously to help distribute the baking soda over the entire rope.

6. Let the sealed bag sit overnight, or for 24 hours.

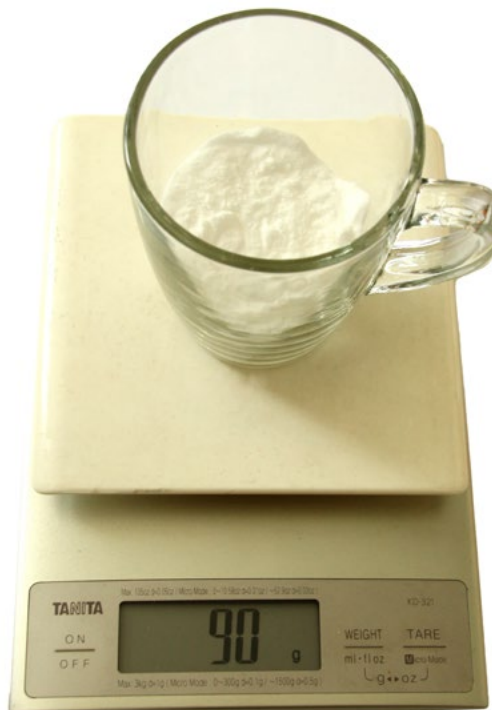
If possible, continue to shake the bag every few hours.

7. Remove the rope from the bag, and shake the rope vigorously, either in your bathroom shower stall or outside.

To keep the rope clean and free of new odors, don't let the rope touch the ground.

8. Discard the used baking soda.

9. Repeat the procedure as many times as you feel necessary.



Cleaning & deodorizing 5: Adding scents

Although most people associate the smell of rope with the wonderful experience they have using it, some people can't abide the smell. Thus, you may wish to imbue your rope with other scents.

We tested our procedure successfully with coffee grounds. However, the procedure should work similarly for other scented powders. If you wish to replace the smell of rope with a different scent, you have many options, including:

- Coffee grounds
- Scented laundry detergent
- Cinnamon or other spices
- Talc
- Carpet deodorizer

Powders such as talc are carcinogenic when inhaled, so take precautions to ensure your safety when using your rope and especially when applying the powder.

To add powdered scents to your rope:

1. Deodorize your rope thoroughly using the techniques described in “Cleaning & deodorizing 4: Baking soda” on page 20.
For best results, your rope should be substantially free of odor before applying a new scent.
2. Scent your rope by substituting your scented powder for baking soda and following the directions in “Cleaning & deodorizing 4: Baking soda” on page 20.
Scented powder varies in intensity. Use your judgement when determining the amount of powder to use. If in doubt, start with a small quantity. If you wish a stronger scent, repeat the procedure.
3. Preserve your rope by storing it as described in “Prevention: Storing rope (especially in high humidity environments)” on page 8.
Scent is carried by actual molecules traveling from the rope to your nose. Storing rope in a plastic bag reduces diffusion of molecules into the air, preserving the scent longer.

Finally, you can also scent your rope by spritzing it with scented liquids such as cologne, candle flavoring, pot pourri liquid, liquid deodorizer, essential oils, etc.

Cleaning & deodorizing 6: Washing

Washing your rope with water will seriously reduce its life expectancy.

Further, water will cause the jute fibers to widen and shorten. Left to dry on its own, your rope will thicken and shorten significantly, likely ruining it for its intended purpose. Thus, after washing, you *must* dry your rope under tension.

After washing, your rope will almost certainly require defuzzing and a new treatment with mineral oil.

Despite following the proper procedure, washing may leave your rope permanently altered or ruined. If you must wash your rope, wash and fully dry a single piece to both test the final result and ensure your procedure works smoothly.

We strongly recommend that you wash your rope only as an absolute last resort.

To clean your rope with water:

1. Wash your rope with cold water and a mild detergent.
Detergents include laundry soap, shampoo, and dish detergent. Don't use hand soap, which will leave a filmy residue.
2. Dry your rope under tension to prevent it from becoming shorter and thicker.
Consider spanning your rope horizontally (like a clothesline), with a 5-15 kg weight suspended from the middle. As the rope shortens, the effective tension will rise dramatically, reducing its tendency to shorten further.
3. Periodically inspect the rope to ensure it's drying well.
You may wish adjust the tension or move the weight to avoid creasing the rope. Don't remove the rope until it's fully dry to the touch.
4. Microwave the rope to remove any remaining moisture.
Jute is highly hygroscopic. Even when dry to the touch, jute can hold 34% of its mass as water, making it very susceptible to dry rot. See "Cleaning & deodorizing 1: Microwaving rope" on page 16.
5. Defuzz your rope. See "Maintenance: Fuzz control" on page 13.
6. Treat your rope with a new application of mineral oil. See "Maintenance: Oiling" on page 14.

Repair: Fixing high strands from hard dragging

Like all three-strand rope, Douglas Kent Rope is vulnerable to high stranding. However, because Douglas Kent Rope features whipping and end knots that securely hold the rope in several places, high stranding only affects that one section. Because the strands are held tightly by the end (and sometimes center) whipping, these high strands can be fixed.

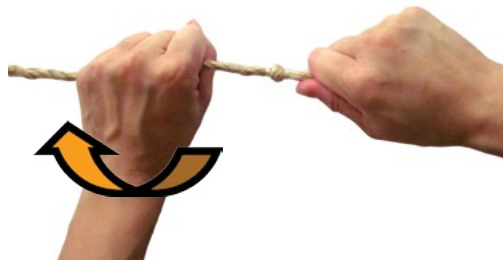


To fix high-strands caused by hard dragging

In most cases, high stranding will be caused by pulling too hard toward the ends of the rope, so the goal will be to pull in the opposite direction (back to the center of the length of rope).

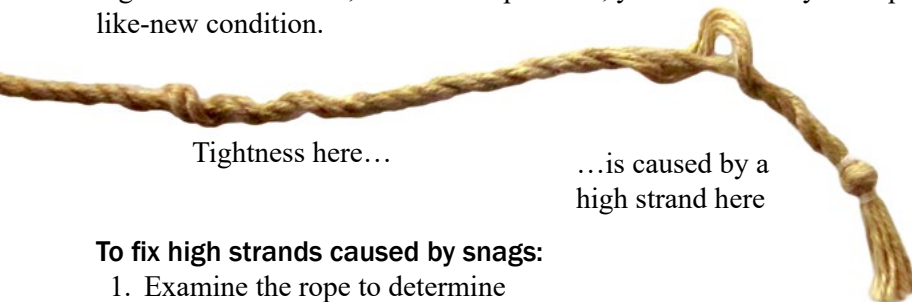
1. Hold the very end of the rope with one hand.
2. Firmly drag your fist along the rope, back toward the center of the rope. Rotate your hand to match the spiralling of the strands.
3. Repeat the previous step, using progressively less force as the strands settle into position.

Your rope will return to its original, even form.



Repair: Fixing high strands caused by snags

If you snag your Douglas Kent Rope on something sharp, it can develop a high strand. However, with a little patience, you can restore your rope to like-new condition.



To fix high strands caused by snags:

1. Examine the rope to determine from which side the high strand slid. Elsewhere on the rope (usually nearby), that specific strand will be unusually tight.

The goal will be to move the high strand back to the tight section.

2. Spiralling along the length of the rope, slide the high strand toward the section where the strand is tight. Move the strand a little at a time. Be patient. Ensure the strands never cross (the order should always remain 1-2-3, 1-2-3 along the length of the rope).
3. Repeat the previous step until all the strands are mostly in place.
4. Grip the rope with your fist, then slide your fist along the length of the rope. Rotate your hand to match the spiralling of the strands.
5. Repeat the previous step, using progressively less force as the strands return to their normal position.

Your rope will return to its original form.





v4.00

Visit www.DouglasKentRope.com for the latest version